

Amendments to the Specification

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace the first and second paragraphs beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/676 517 filed October 2, 2000 now U.S. Patent No. 6 623 445, which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/769 428, filed December 19, 1996 now U.S. Patent No. 6 213 970, which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/502 708, filed July 14, 1995 now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/176 130, filed December 30, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5 484 402.

~~— This application is a continuation in part of application Serial No. 08/176 130, filed December 30, 1993 (attorney's reference Stryker Case 139) —~~

Please replace the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION section with the marked-up copy of the section enclosed herewith.

Stryker Corporation, the assignee of the present invention, filed on April 19, 1993, U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/049 144 ~~(attorney's reference Stryker Case 130)~~, now U.S. Patent No. 5 470 305, disclosing a suction irrigation system in which a handpiece is supplied with irrigation liquid through an elongate flexible tube, from a remote source. The system includes an electric motor drive pump powered by a battery pack and controlled by an electric switch. The electric switch is on the handpiece and the battery pack is fixed along the irrigation liquid tube between the handpiece and irrigation liquid source, at a point remote from the handpiece. An electric cable extends between the battery pack and handpiece and along the irrigation liquid tube. Such system is marketed under the trademark SURGILAV PLUS (TM).

However, the SURGILAV PLUS (TM) system, while adaptable to a variety of surgical uses, was not specifically directed

toward endoscopic surgery. Moreover, it differs structurally and operationally in a number of respects from the present invention.

A number of other companies market irrigation and suction irrigation systems. However, the present inventors have not found same to be entirely satisfactory for their purposes.

Therefore, in a continuing effort to improve on surgical suction irrigation systems, particularly endoscopic suction irrigation systems, the present invention has been developed.

Further objects and purposes of the present invention will be apparent to persons acquainted with apparatus of this general kind, upon reading the following description and inspecting the accompanying drawings.